THE AVENGERS
2.1
DEC
MARVEL
POP ART PRODUCTIONS
CAUTION
110 AVENUE
DEATH IS A STRANGER!

TO MY EYES, IT HAPPENS IN *SLOW MOTION.*
THE CREATURE RISING LIKE THE MOON OVER MONTAUK BEACH.
ITS PREY SEEPING INLAND LIKE A WAVE OF MOLASSES--
--AS IT DAWNS ON THEM PAINFULLY SLOWLY THAT *SALVATION* HAS ARRIVED.

SEE? IT'S THE AVENGERS! WE'LL BE OKAY!
I DON'T SEE THOR.
THOSE AREN'T THE REAL AVENGERS.
POSSIBLY NOT. BUT I SWEAR TO MAKE THE EFFORT.
I AM PIETRO MAXIMOFF, FASTEST MAN TO EXIST--
--AND I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP EXISTING.
HAWKEYE! YOU SAW ME AND FIRED ANYWAY?
AND YOU DUCKED SO FAST. HAPPY ENDING, ZIPPY.
THE ARCHER IS HOPELESS-- MORE CONCERNED WITH HIS EGO THAN HIS TEAM.
BUT WE HAVE AT LEAST ONE UNDISPUTED "REAL AVENGER."
CAPTAIN AMERICA, GREAT WARRIOR OUT OF HISTORY--
SP-TANG!
--THOUGH PERHAPS NOT MADE TO SPECIFICATIONS FOR VANQUISHING GIANT MONSTERS.
IT MAY BE UP TO MY SISTER WANDA--
--THE SCARLET WITCH, WHOSE HEXES DERANGE THE NATURAL ORDER.
ALAS, SHE MUST FIGHT WITH THE WEAPONS AT HAND.

BEACH UMBRELLAS? DID SHE REALLY JUST TRY TO BEAT IT WITH BEACH UMBRELLAS?
THE PUNDITS ARE RIGHT FOR ONCE. THIS TEAM'S PATHETIC. IMAGINE HOW THOR WOULD HAVE--
WILL YOU PEOPLE SHUT UP ABOUT THOR?
CAREFUL, PIETRO. TEMPER.
MUST END THIS FAST BEFORE I GO BERSERK ON SOME BIG-MOUTHED SAPIEN.
A BLAST OF SAND TO BLIND THE BEAST--
--AND IT'S WORKING. FOR A MOMENT.
I GAVE YOU AN OPENING. FINISH HIM OFF. AND DON'T DITHER.
WANDA! FOCUS ON THE SEA ITSELF!
WATCH ME, CAPTAIN.
AND AS THE HEX-CHURNED WATERS BEGIN TO ROAR--
--THE HECKLERS FALL SILENT.
THE CREATURE CRIES OUT.

WE *WON.*

AND I PLAYED A *PART* IN IT.

AND THE FICKLE CROWD'S CLAMOR MAKES ME REALIZE SOMETHING *MORE.*

IT ISN'T *THEIR* APPROVAL I FIGHT FOR.

IT'S MY *CAPTAIN'S.*

WHAT... *SHFFF....E* WAS... THAT...?

ATLANTEAN REFUGEE, MOST LIKELY.

AVENGERS, THAT WAS *TERRIBLE.* WE'D HAVE BEATEN THAT THING A LOT *FASTER* BY WORKING *TOGETHER* LIKE WE *PRACTICED.*

AS OF *TODAY,* WE *DOUBLE* OUR--

HAWKEYE!

OVER HERE! *NOW!*

SORRY, LADIES. GRANDPA GETS CRANKY IF HE DOESN'T TAKE HIS *METAMUCIL.*

AS I WAS *SAYING.* WE ARE *DOUBLING* OUR *TRAINING TIME* UNTIL WE GET IT *RIGHT--*

--STARTING AS *SOON* AS QUICKSILVER RUNS US BACK TO *HEADQUARTERS.*

CAPTAIN, I RAN US ALL *HERE,* I RAN AGAINST THE *MONSTER--*

--AND NOW I CANNOT RUN. I AM *EXHAUSTED.*

...
THEN WE MAKE DO.
HEADS HELD HIGH.

CHECK OUT THE MIGHTY AVENGERS.
THE MIGHTY PRETENDERS.

AND THERE CAME A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES DECIDED TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND WERE REPLACED WITH A GROUP OF UNTESTED, UNTRIED NEW RECRUITS: HAWKEYE, A MASTER ARCHER AND REFORMED CRIMINAL, AND TWO OF MAGNETO'S FORMER MINIONS--THE SPEEDSTER QUICKSILVER AND HIS TWIN SISTER, THE MYSTERIOUS SCARLET WITCH.

CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS TASKED WITH TURNING THE MEMBERS OF THIS RAGTAG TEAM INTO AVENGERS, BUT THAT WAS A STORY NEVER REVEALED...UNTIL NOW.

THE AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

HAWKEYE

SCARLET WITCH

QUICKSILVER

WRITER	MARK WAID
PENCILER	BARRY KITSON
INKER	MARK FARMER
COLORIST	JORDAN BOYD
LETTERER	FERRAN DELGADO
COVER	BARRY KITSON & JORDAN BOYD
VARIANT COVERS	JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER; NEAL ADAMS; YASMINE PUTRI
ASSISTANT EDITOR	ALANNA SMITH
EDITOR	TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR IN CHIEF	AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER	JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER	DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	ALAN FINE

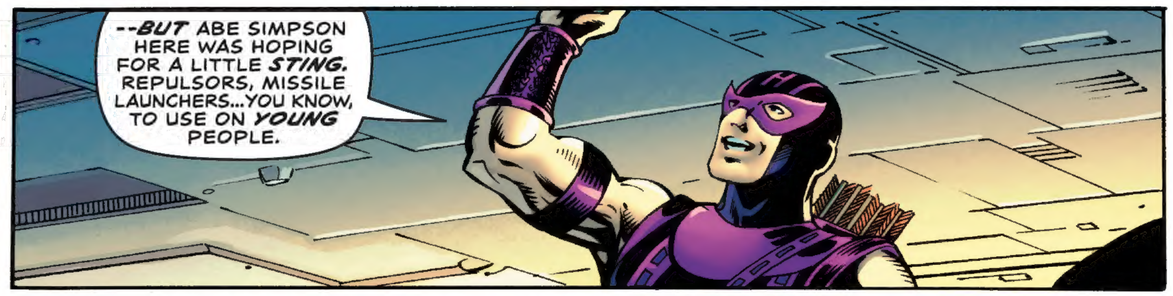
AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

© 2016 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or insititution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.WWW.MARVEL.COM

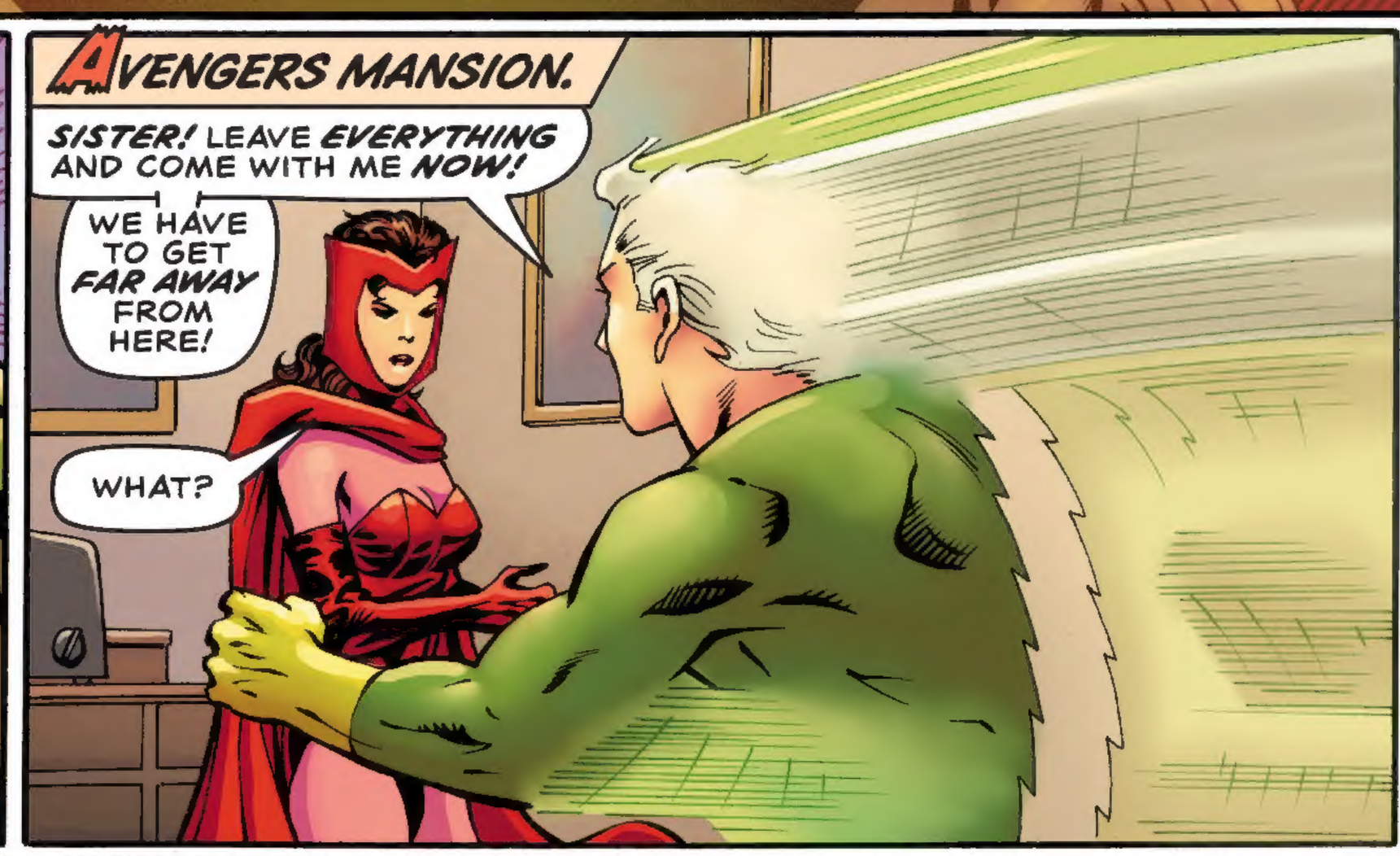
STARK INDUSTRIES.

IT'LL HAVE TO *DO*, TONY.

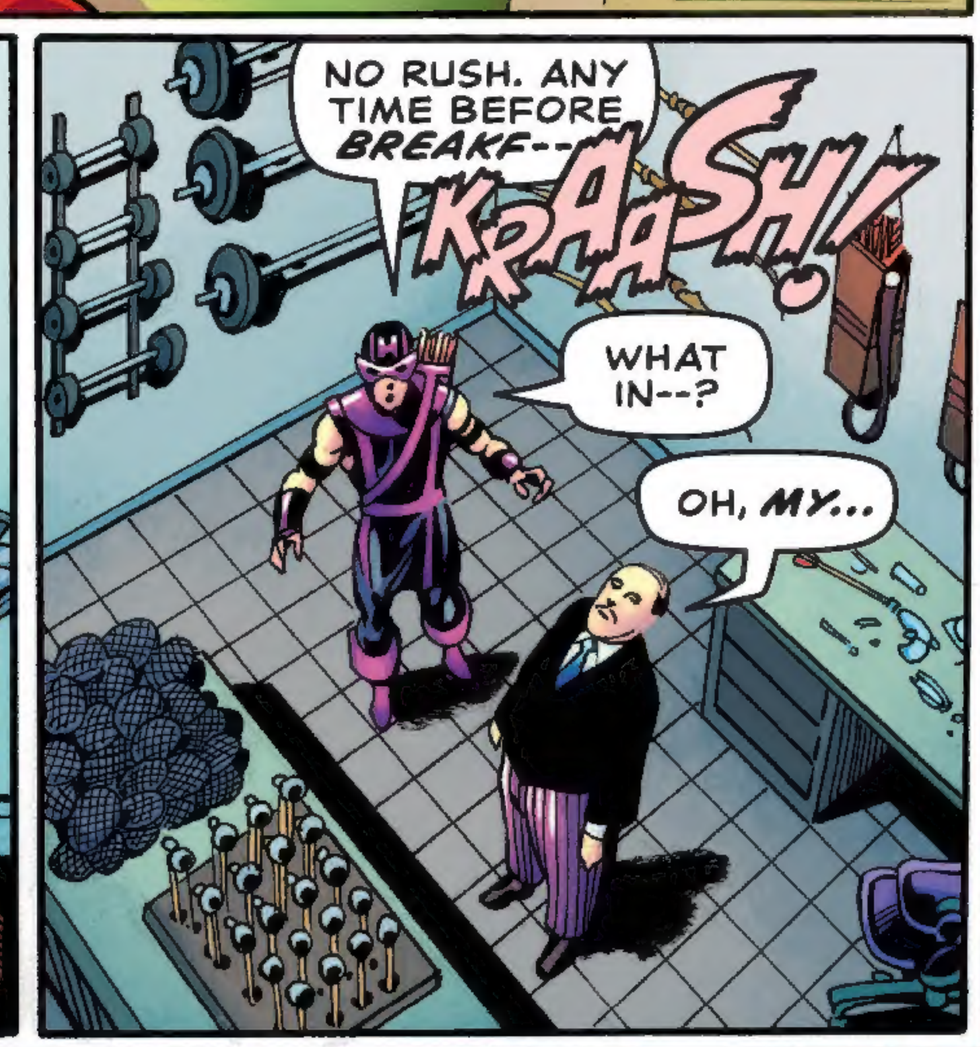
WHAT?

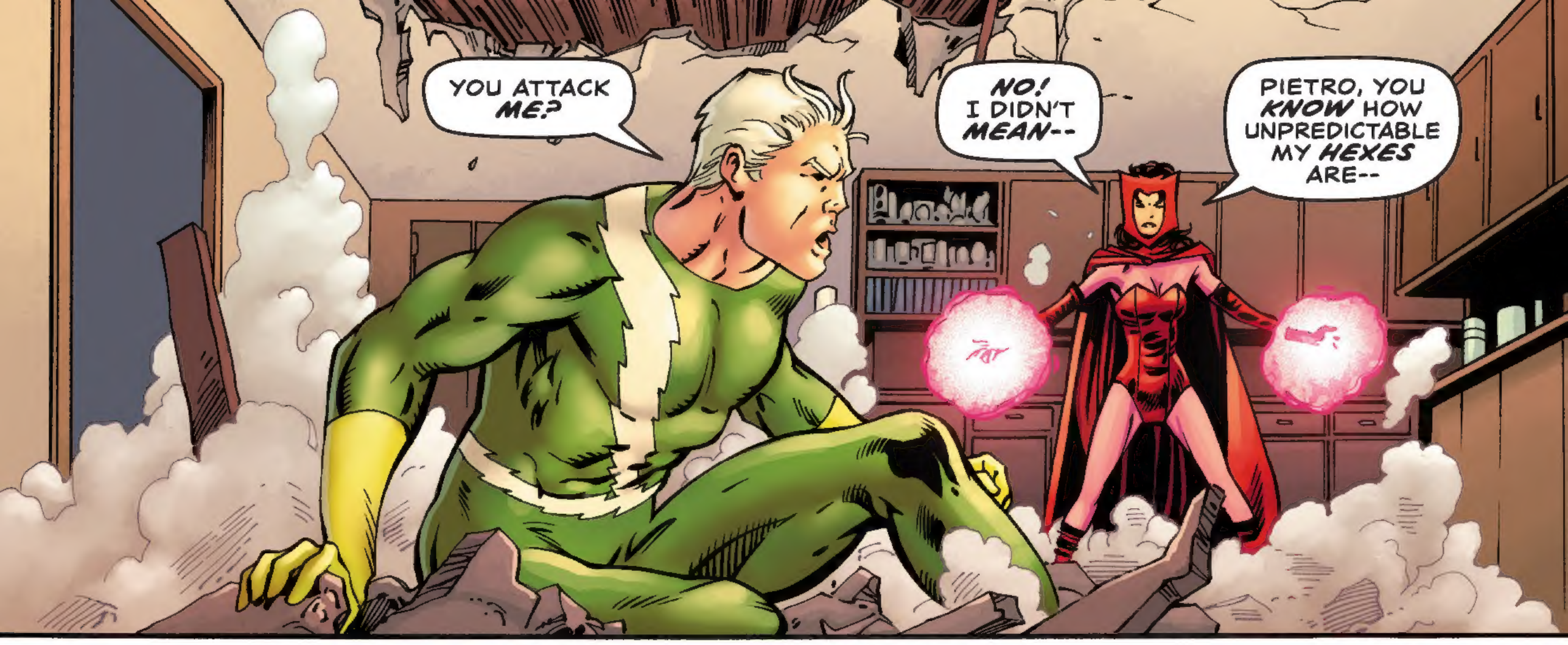


WANDA!


AVENGERS MANSION.
SISTER! LEAVE EVERYTHING AND COME WITH ME NOW!
WE HAVE TO GET FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
WHAT?

JARV, DID I TELL YOU I LOVE HAVING A BUTLER?
NEED YOU TO STUFF THESE NETS BACK INTO THEIR SHAFTS--I KNOW, TRICK ARROWS ARE A PAIN, RIGHT?--
AND SORT THE BOWSTRINGS BY GAUGE.


NO RUSH. ANY TIME BEFORE BREAKF--
KRAASH!
WHAT IN--?
OH, MY...


YOU ATTACK ME?
NO! I DIDN'T MEAN--
PIETRO, YOU KNOW HOW UNPREDICTABLE MY HEXES ARE--
IF YOU HAD SEEN THE VISION I DID--
I SAW IT TOO, AND I WILL NOT RUN!
YOU DECIDED WE WOULD BE AVENGERS, SO LIVE WITH THAT OR FLEE BY YOURSELF!
I AM NOT A YO-YO TOY TO PULL BACK AND FORTH--
DUDE, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TREAT YOUR SIBLINGS BACK IN UNIVERSAL HORROR MOVIE COUNTRY, BUT HERE IN THE USA WE LET GROWNUPS RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.
BACK OFF, ARCHER! THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER!
TWHAM!
THEN THAT'S HOW WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.
AS A FAMILY.

PIETRO AND I SAW A *VISION.* IT FELT ALMOST LIKE A *WARNING...* TELEPATHIC...PERHAPS FROM *CHARLES XAVIER?*

NO, WANDA. IT WAS NO WARNING. IT WAS THE *STRANGER, TOYING* WITH US.

I'VE ALERTED THE X-MEN. MAYBE XAVIER CAN HELP US GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

WHO'S THIS *STRANGER* DUDE, LIGHTFOOT?

WHAT CAN *HE* DO TO A PAIR OF *MUTANTS?*

"ANYTHING HE DESIRES.

"THE STRANGER IS *NOT* OF THIS *EARTH.* HIS MOTIVES ARE *MYSTERIOUS,* THE LIMITS OF HIS POWER *UNKNOWN.*

"HE STRODE THE PLANET LIKE A *GOD.*

"HE DEFEATED THE *BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS* WITH BONE-CHILLING EASE. MASTERMIND, THE TOAD-- EVEN MAGNETO *HIMSELF.**

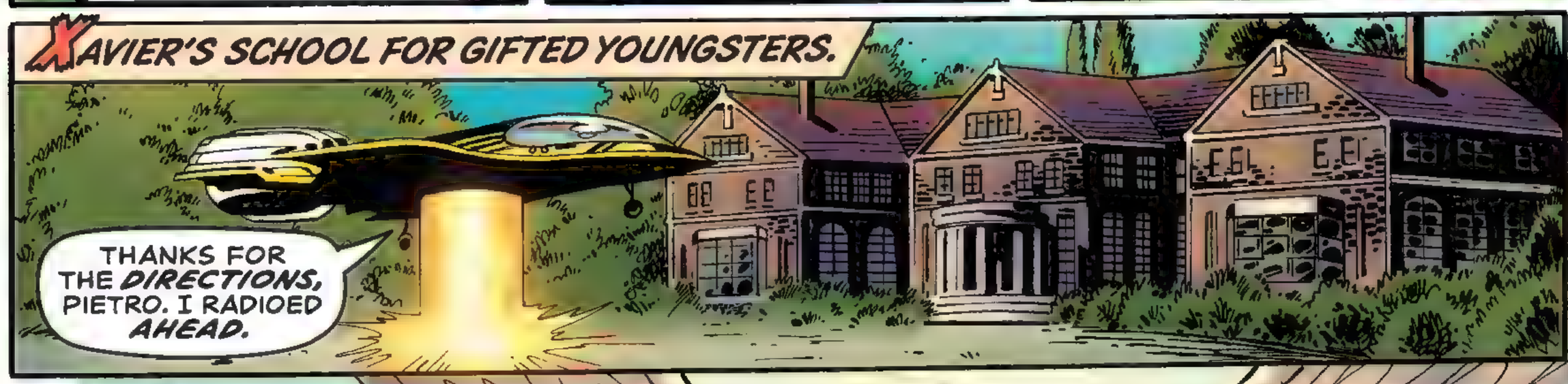
"FOR SOME REASON...

"...HE SPARED MY SISTER AND ME...

"...BUT IF HE HAS RETURNED TO FINISH *US* OFF, THERE MAY NOT BE ANYWHERE ON EARTH TO *HIDE*--

*BACK IN X-MEN #11. --TOM.

"--THOUGH, FOR *WANDA'S* SAKE, I WILL MAKE EVERY *EFFORT.*"



--AND WE HOPE YOU KNOW THAT IF CAPTAIN AMERICA WEREN'T VOUCHING FOR YOU, THE X-MEN WOULD LAY QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH FLAT FOR CRIMES PAST.

EVEN HAWKEYE GASPS.

THIS VISION, LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF RAPHAEL, WOULD GILD MY HEART WITH PEACE AND NOURISH IT WITH INSPIRATION--

--WERE I NOT SO *DREADING* THE FOLLOWING ENCOUNTER.

HAWKEYE, THIS IS *ANGEL... BEAST... MARVEL GIRL... ICEMAN.* I'M *CYCLOPS.*

WE COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU TWO *IN,* QUICKSILVER. LOOK AT YOU *NOW,* ALL AVENGING.

IF HUMANS ACCEPT US, IT WILL BE GOOD FOR WANDA.

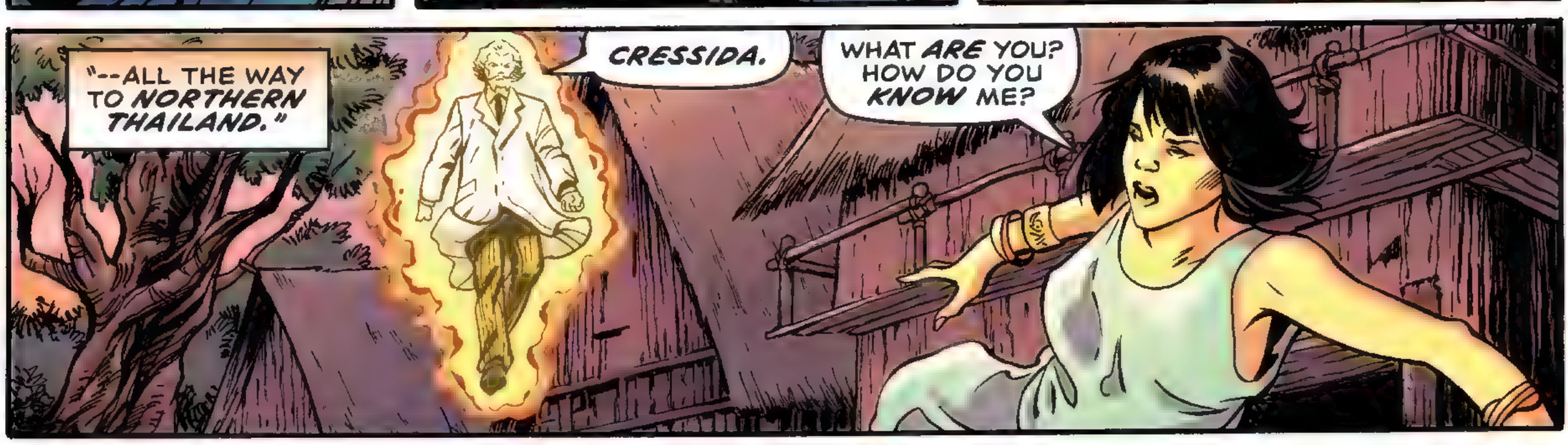
GEE, THANKS.

...UMM...
CAP? WHAT'S GOING ON? A SECOND AGO, I WAS CHATTING UP THAT REDHEAD--
LET ME THINK.

ALL RIGHT. *APPARENTLY,* XAVIER GOT TIRED OF BEING *CHALLENGED* AND SLEEPWALKED US TO THE JET.
BUT--HUH. NEW COORDINATES.

HE MUST HAVE ENTERED THEM INTO OUR NAVIGATION. STRAIGHT FROM *"CEREBRO,"* I PRESUME, WHATEVER *THAT* IS. LET'S FOLLOW THROUGH.
AND HAWKEYE?

"THAT REDHEAD" IS A *MINOR.*
IF YOU WANT TO BE AN AVENGER, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME RIGHT NOW TO CONTEMPLATE THE STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR EXPECTED OF US--


"--ALL THE WAY TO *NORTHERN THAILAND.*"
CRESSIDA.
WHAT *ARE* YOU? HOW DO YOU *KNOW* ME?

DO NOT FEIGN IGNORANCE TO THE STRANGER. I HAVE TRAVERSED TOO VAST A DISTANCE TO BE MOCKED.
YOU FEEL IT AS KEENLY AS I. THE RE-EMERGENCE OF MUTANT POWER ON THIS WORLD--
--POWER WHICH I COVET.
NO!
WHOOM!
WHO--
--DARES?
I HAVE TO SAY I'M RELIEVED.
EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT YOU LIKE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF GOD. BUT I SEE YOU'RE JUST A BULLY.
I BET YOU'RE A COWARD, TOO.
DON'T BAIT HIM!

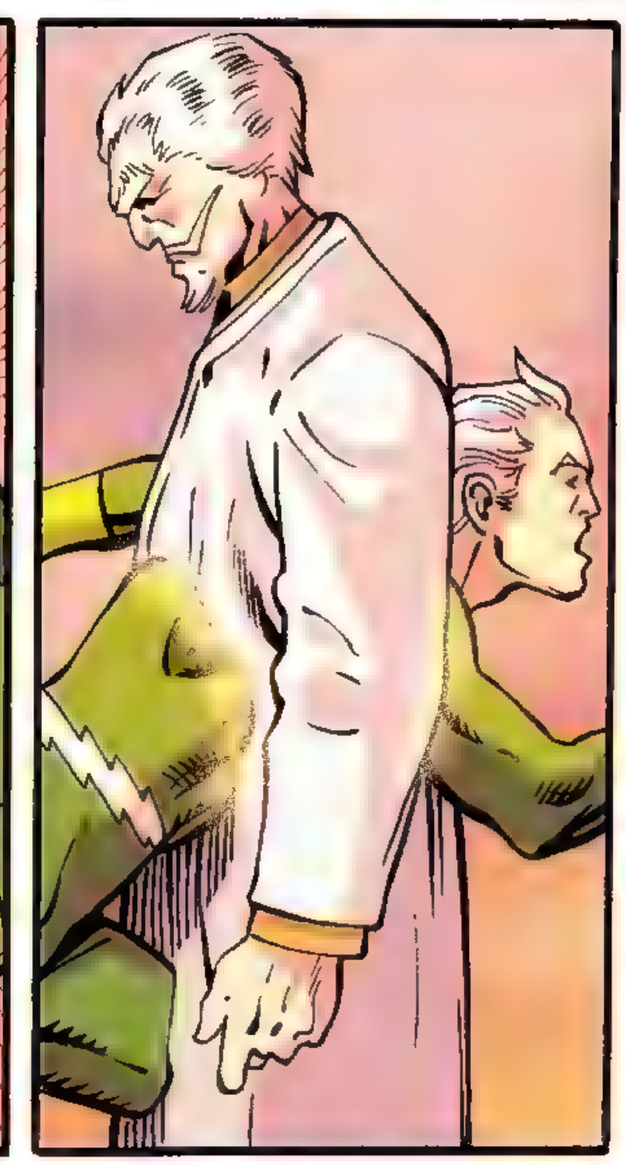
CRESSIDA. IF THESE ARE YOUR *DEFENDERS*--

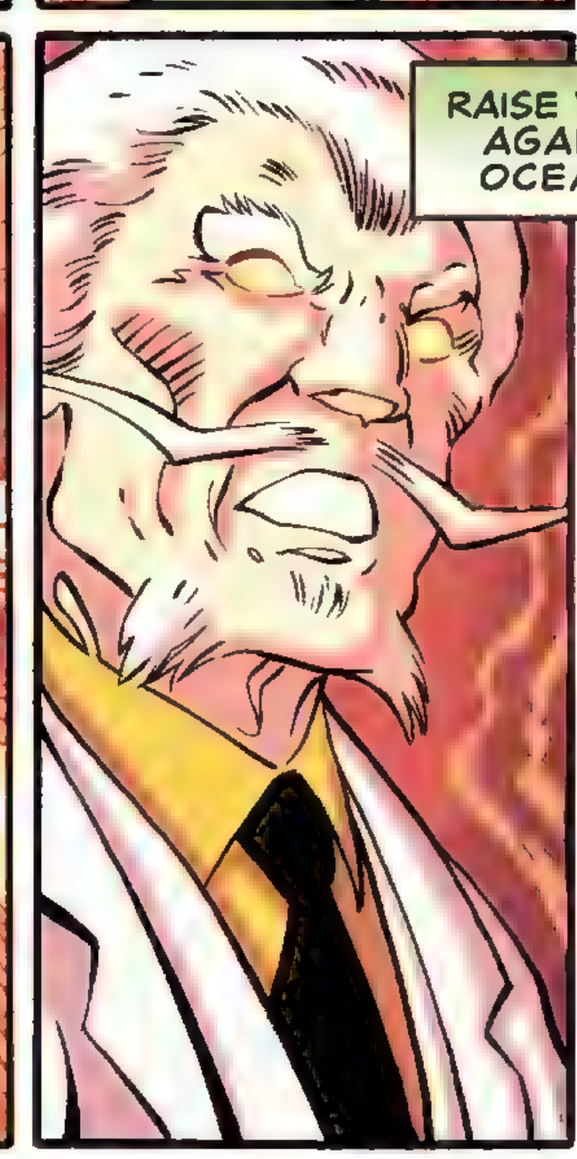
--YOU *HAVE* NO PROTECTION.

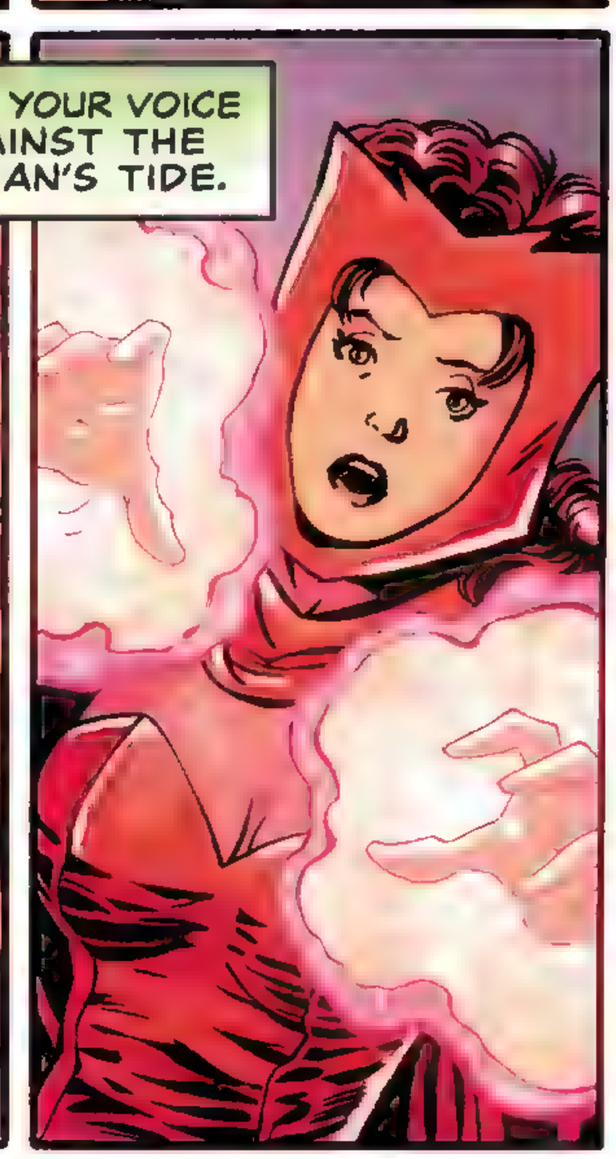
JUST AS I WARNED.

THE STRANGER IS NO MERE OPPONENT.

HE IS *FORCE PERSONIFIED.* TO OPPOSE HIM--





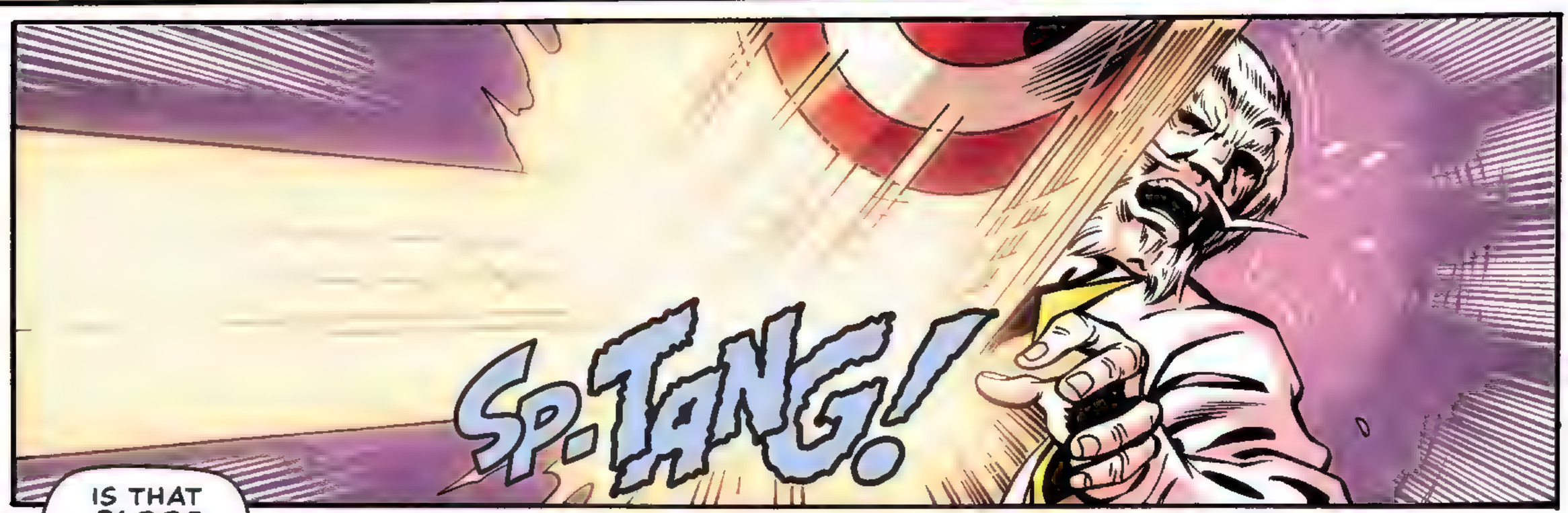


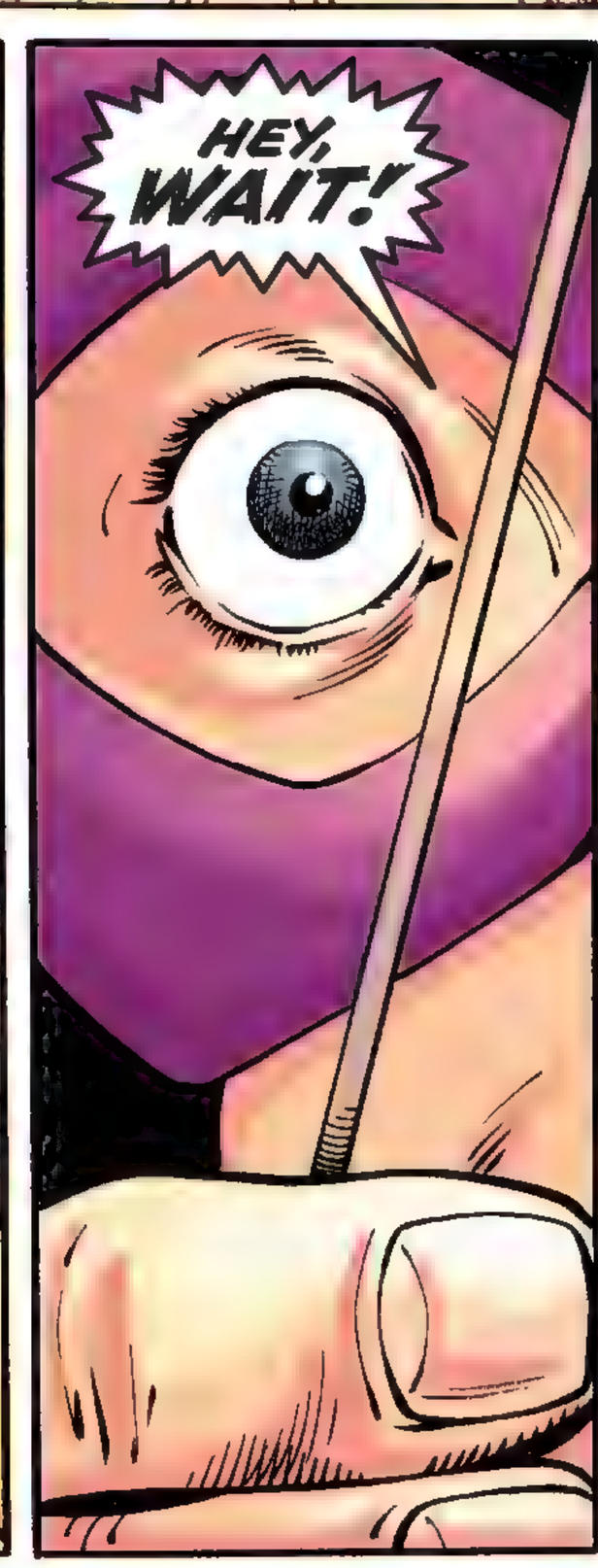
MISS, WHY IS HE AFTER YOU? ARE YOU A MUTANT, OR--?
I DON'T KNOW! I--
OH!
FORGIVE ME! I DID NOT MEAN TO DO THAT!
WELL, WHATEVER IT WAS, NO APOLOGY NECESSARY!
I FEEL LIKE I COULD TAKE ON AN ARMY! ANYBODY ELSE?
I CAN CONTROL MY HEXES LIKE NEVER BEFORE!
NOTHING IS BEYOND ME!

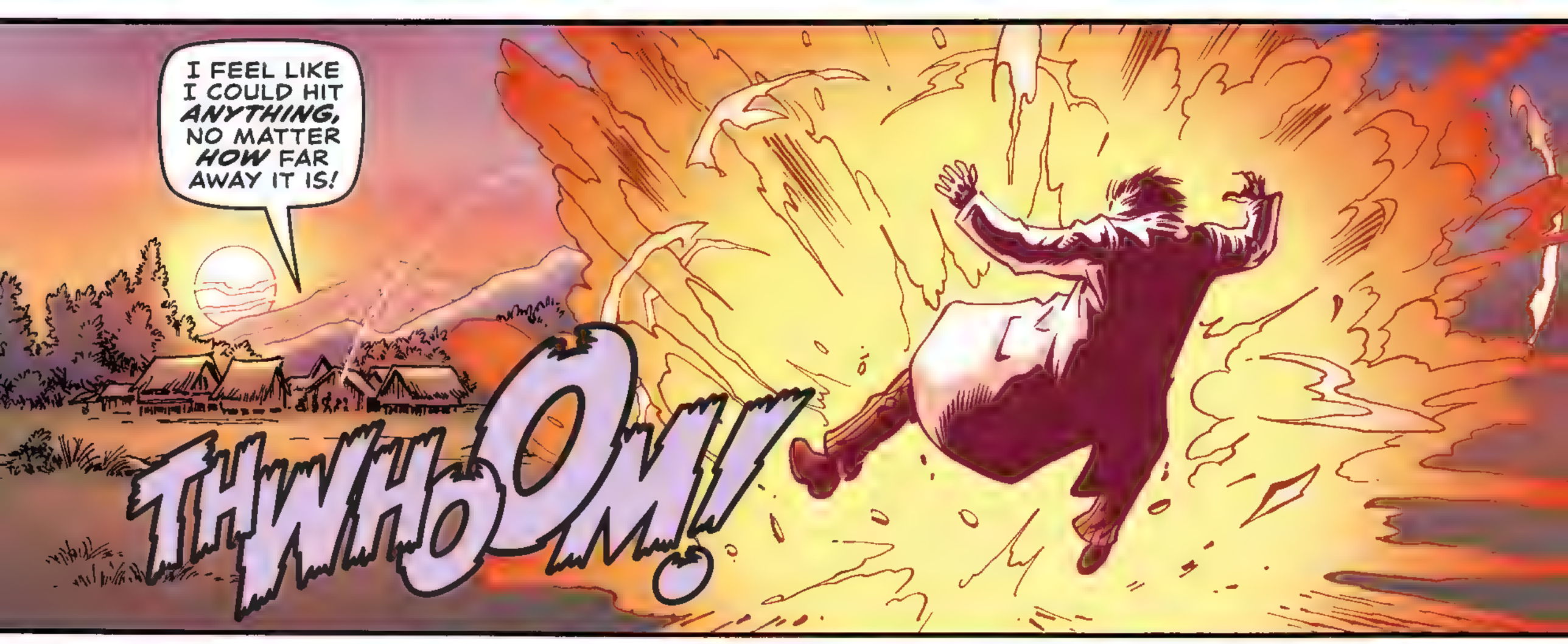
THIS IS...THIS IS *IMPOSSIBLE!*

I'M JUMPING HIGHER, THROWING TEN TIMES HARDER--

--AND IT'S JUST ABOUT *EFFORTLESS.*






I FEEL LIKE I COULD HIT ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY IT IS!
THWHOOM!

AND I HAVE NEVER RUN THIS FAST!
NOWHERE NEAR!

CRESSIDA, WHAT DID YOU DO TO US?
I--I DON'T KNOW. I'M SORRY, I--
DON'T BE. THIS MISSION WAS SHEER SUICIDE--
--UNTIL YOU EVENED THE ODDS!

ENOUGH!
I CONGRATULATE YOU, AVENGERS! YOU PLAYED THIS WELL!

HAD YOU NOT INTERFERED, I WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TAKEN THIS WOMAN FOR STUDY--
--BUT YOU GAVE ME TIME TO REALIZE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN POINTLESS.
WHATEVER SHE IS, SHE IS NOT A MUTANT.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY, I BREATHE.

SO...NOT A MUTANT... WHAT ARE YOU? WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS CRESSIDA.
EVER SINCE I WAS A GIRL, I'VE HAD THIS... ABILITY TO MAKE THOSE AROUND ME BETTER. FASTER. STRONGER.
I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT, BUT...

IT IS ALL RIGHT. I BARELY UNDERSTAND MY ABILITIES.
BUT IF YOU HAVE THAT EFFECT ON US--
--BETTER TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE US THAN WITH PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT BE AS WELL-INTENTIONED.
AND THAT IS WHY I AM BOTH PROUD OF MY SISTER AND WORRY FOR HER.
SHE IS ALWAYS QUICK TO GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. I PRAY HER COMPASSION NEVER WOUNDS US.
WELL SAID, WANDA. CRESSIDA, WE'D BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS AN AVENGER.
REALLY? I AM HONORED.
YOUR REPUTATION EXTENDS TO MY VILLAGE, MY PEOPLE--
WHERE ARE THEY, BY THE WAY?
THEY FLED AT THE SIGHT OF THE STRANGER.
I'LL SEND WORD BACK THAT I AM ALL RIGHT.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD ASK MORE QUESTIONS OF CRESSIDA, BUT SHE SEEMS VERY FRAGILE.
WHERE SHE DRAWS HER POWER FROM, I SUPPOSE...
...IS SOMETHING WE CAN LEARN LATER.
NEXT ISSUE:
ABSOLUTE POWER

ALL ABOUT THE AVENGERS

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM MARKED "OKAY TO PRINT"!

—And that's that! Now, we come to possibly the most confusing letters section we've ever printed! (And for *us*, that's saying something!) We received many thousands of urgent, emotional, heart-rending letters in the past month, all giving well-argued opinions about our new Avengers' line-up—and all disagreeing with each other! The only conclusion we could come to was that half of you are crazy about the change, while the other half may never talk to us again! Here are some swingin' samples of what we mean . . .

Dear Stan and Don,

I have just read AVENGERS #16 and while the feeling is still in me, I will write to you right away. I am an avid reader of yours and never before have I read such an outstanding masterpiece, a truly great work of art, as this issue. This spectacular epic, one of the true greats of all time, will live in the Literary Hall of Fame forever. Such drama, such realism, such characterization—it made me feel as if I were personally affected by the outcome of the tale! The ending was enough to bring a lump to my throat and a feeling of pride to my heart. You have truly outdone yourselves in this super-spectacular from the Marvel House of Ideas. But don't stop there—keep turning out these literary gems. Even if there is a new Avengers, keep our old heroes in the mags, too. So I end this letter with these words—Marvel Forever Onward!!

Jeff Morden, 8580 Hubbard Dr.
Garden City, Mich.

Chee! You know how praise upsets us, Jeff! We've spent years telling everyone how modest and self-effacing we are! But, we forgive you this time. Anyhow, we're marching onward all right—if only someone would tell us where we're heading!

Dear Stan and Don,

Concerning AVENGERS #16, I go along with you completely. The changes were necessary for the vitality of the magazine, and they also enabled you to retain the services of popular reformed villains and villainesses. However, I do not feel that the Hulk should rejoin the group. He is much better alone. Instead, I agree that Wonder Man should be brought into the team. So what if he died in issue #12—you're writing fiction! If you can create a Wonder Man, you can bring him back to life. I wonder how many other readers would want to see Wonder Man resurrected.

Rosalind L. Rogoff, 26 Elizabeth Rd.
New Rochelle, N. Y.

Only the *ghouls* among us, we'd guess! Anyway, we're having enough trouble right now trying to keep track of our *live* characters—or hadn't you noticed, gal?

Dear Stan and Don,

This is to congratulate you on AVENGERS #16—"The Old Order Changeth." This was probably the greatest mag in history, not for art (although it was terrific), nor even for story plot (great, also), but because it was the first time that a series has dared to change its whole format of characters. Now that I've read this, I begin to wonder what will happen to the FANTASTIC FOUR since their latest issue, because of the twist that the Avengers have taken. Anyway, keep it up—as if I thought you wouldn't!

Mark Kernes, Windsor Mountain School
Lenox, Mass.

Say! That reminds us! What *is* supposed to happen to the F.F.? It seems we *were* planning some sort of stupendous surprise, but—Gosh! If only we can *remember* it before press time!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR # 42: This one has to be seen to be believed! It actually features a rampaging Thing battling Mr. Fantastic in a fight to the finish, while the Torch and Sue Storm have their hands full with the Frightful Four! And the shock ending will knock you out of your seat!

SPIDER-MAN #28: Once again Lee and Ditko create a new, daringly different super-villain for Spidey to battle. We promise you'll never forget the unique Molten Man! And watch for the cover itself—truly a modern work of art!

X-MEN #12: At last! The long-awaited origin of Professor X—plus the most dramatic introduction of a mysterious new villain that you've ever seen! Stan and Jack pulled out all the stops on this one!

DAREDEVIL #9: A completely different type of adventure for D.D.! He dares to invade a killer's castle in another country, and runs into one of the strangest dangers any costumed hero has ever faced. Also, he finally consents to an eye operation, and—but why not see for yourself?

THOR #119: This is the issue you've been waiting for, starring the incredible battle between the Thunder God and the more-powerful Destroyer! Filled with drama, action, and startling surprises, it has everything any lover of enchanted pageantry could want!

STRANGE TALES #136: Only mighty Marvel could follow the first fantastic episode of Nick Fury, The Man From Shield with an even greater second episode! And wait till you see Fury's new hidden headquarters! As for Doc Strange—he's got to learn "What Lurks Behind the Mask?"

SUSPENSE #69: Iron Man battle another new Lee-Heck creation—the Titanium Man, and he's as awesome as you'd expect him to be! As for Captain America, this one has a new twist, as he invades the castle of a real old-time mad scientist! You'll think it's right out of the Frankenstein era!

ASTONISH #71: Once again you've a chance to cheer and gape in wonder at the brilliant art of Adam Austin who brings Sub-Mariner to his greatest heights of glory! And we can't wait till you see the stupifying Seaweed Man! Meantime, the Hulk is in desperate danger as he faces his gravest decision!

SGT FURY #21: Fury and his Howlers once again invade Hitler's own domain as they dare the impossible in a spectacular effort to free "The Hostages"! If you hate ordinary war magazines, what are you waiting for? This one's for you!

Dear Stan and Don,

I just bought AVENGERS #16 and had to tell you how great it was! Here are a few reasons why I liked it better than any issue published so far. 1) The cover was superb. It had my favorite Avenger, Cap, in the limelight. Also, it didn't seem crowded. 2) You brought back Hawkeye as a hero. I always liked him better than Iron Man and couldn't picture him as a villain. I suggest you give Hawkeye his own strip. 3) This new lineup opens up a vast amount of new possibilities for the Avengers. I can hardly wait to see Cap and Hawkeye fighting side by side. 4) You're finally going to bring the Hulk back into the Avengers, at least I hope so! Many thanks for this wonderful issue.

Cary Burkett, 1120 E. Pecan
Angleton, Texas

You're excruciatingly welcome, Cary! And, don't be mad at us because of the Hulk—remember, even we Marvel madmen can't bat .1000!

— By the way, when you receive your swingin' Marvel stationery, don't waste it by scribbling on it! It's much too beautiful! Save it for your most important letter writing! We wish we could see your faces when you receive it — we think it's probably the most original, most amusing pop art creation of the year! And the autographs on back of the portfolio will absolutely knock you out! We kid you not!

Dear Stan and Don,

AVENGERS #16 almost made me crawl up in a small corner of my room and cry. Why? Because you've replaced three of the finest heroes ever known—namely Giant-Man, the Wasp and Iron Man! To replace them you've put in the inexperienced Hawkeye and the ex-criminal brother and sister team, Wanda and Pietro. If any super-hero leaves a team after only a little over a year of issues published, I'd say he doesn't have much stamina! Please don't get me wrong, this team of Avengers is great as far as the members themselves go, but as a team they'd trip over each other's M.M.M.S. membership cards! Cap is the only one who would know what he was doing!

Brad Reddersen, M.M.M.S. #2013
710 Raleigh Rd., Glenview, Ill. 60025

There seems to be only one thing to do—we'll have to buy back every issue we've sold since #16—burn them—and print new ones with the old Avengers! No sacrifice is too great to make in order to satisfy a disgruntled fan! *Sheeesh!*

— Have you noticed the change in the trade-mark which appears on the left hand corner of our cover? So many of you frantic fans have objected to calling our Marvel mags "comics" that we felt we just had to come up with a better name! And so, from now on, you are no longer reading "Comic Books" when you read our little masterpieces! Instead, you're reading a "Pop Art book"! Remember, from now on, Brand X, Y, and Z are comic books, but when you buy a Marvel mag, you ask for a Marvel Pop Art book! We'll be checking on you, so don't let us down!

Dear Stan and Don,

Our whole neighborhood is wild about your magazines! But, I'm puzzled because Thor seems to have lost The Trial Of The Gods and I'm not certain whether he's still in the Avengers or not! Could you please unpuzzle me?

William Boles, 1329 Oak St.
Wilmington, Dela. 19865

Boy, are *you* asking the wrong guys, Bill! We haven't figured it out yet ourselves! But, if you can bear to wallow in this sea of confusion just a while longer, stay with us and see what happens. (Like forever!) Hey! We just got an idea! Maybe if we provide an interpreter with each ish—!

Dear Stan and Don,

What are you? Out of your tree or something? What have you got against Iron Man, Giant-Man, and Thor in AVENGERS #16? The Avengers aren't just any group of super-heroes whom you choose to call the Avengers. They have come to mean the greatest, most powerful and noblest of all. It is bad enough that Iron Man and Giant-Man are replaced by truly seedy second-rate characters, but a whole issue without Thor in a leading role is almost unbearable. I have been a sincere and avid follower of Marvel for quite a while, but now I'm distraught at the crass, senseless manipulation of my favorite super-heroes. Make the Avengers once again the greatest, most powerful, and noblest — bring back Iron Man and Giant-Man, and don't leave out Thor!

John Baggerman, Box 3, Wesleyan University
Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Conn.

We appreciate your letter, Johnny, but why do you vacillate so? If you want us to do something, don't beat around the bush—speak up, man! How can we comply with your wishes when you're so hesitant about stating your opinions? (Well, what else could we say? The only thing left for us seems to be hari-kari!)

Dear Stan and Don,

All right, what are you doing there at the bullpen? After having read all of this month's selections (after I found money to pay for them), I found out that you are changing three of your groups. First, you kill Pamela in SGT. FURY, then you change the F.F.! But, dropping some of the Avengers and adding new ones—this I can not tolerate! Come on now—you had them going just great and now you're goofing them up. The only thing that could rectify this unpardonable mistake is to restore our jolly green giant and oust Captain America. The only other thing I want to mention is that you really have an inker in Mickey Demeo. Let's see more of him!

Richard Whitehead, 138 West 5818 South
Murray, Utah 84107

You will — you will! But, not in the AVENGERS for a while! He's busy inking other mags for us! (Boy! It seems we just can't do *anything* right!)

—We wanted to include an AVENGERS ANNUAL among our other contemporary classics this summer . . . namely the unbelievably great FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL, as well as the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, THOR ANNUAL, MARVEL TALES ANNUAL, and SGT. FURY ANNUAL . . . but it just wasn't possible! However, we do have some exciting news for you! The magnificent MARVEL TALES ANNUAL (on sale the beginning of August) will feature the Origin of the Avengers—complete and uncut—exactly as it first appeared on that fateful day many months ago—all twenty-two pages of it! (Plus the Origin of the X-Men and a few other slightly sensational surprises). So, don't say we didn't alert you, hear?

Dear Stan and Don,

Well, you've finally done it. After more than eight years of unfaltering, undying devotion, after fighting all the forces of nature to get to the newsstand and buy your Marvel mags, after having to steal from my girl's ring payments to buy your mags, after all this and ten million other insurmountable odds, you've finally made me mad! A guy can take just so much, you know—you can push someone just so far! I have never written before, for up to this point I've been more pleased with Marvel than displeased. But now you've really gone too far. You've broken up the Avengers, and, boy, am I honked off! And, as if breaking them up isn't bad enough, it's about time I stated the rest of my long overdue complaints. DAREDEVIL and X-MEN should both be monthly publications. You had best start to co-ordinate your stories. When Giant-Man made his new helmet in his own mag, he had his old helmet in the Avengers. Something like this is fine if some one is stupid enough to buy only one of your magic Marvel mags, but what about us guys that buy all of them—yeah, what about us!!? So, I could go on for 600 pages, but unfortunately I'd have fifty million pages of good things to say. This is your last chance. If some changes are not made soon, I'll have no choice but to bring some of the boys in from Chicago and wipe out your whole staff. You've got just one trillion years to stop printing your mags!

N.W. Rapparlie, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
Findley College, 2 Starr Ave., Toledo, Ohio

Never mind all that routine stuff, N.W.! We have something really earth-shaking to ask you—where did you dig up the expression "honked off"? It's wild! Can we steal it from you? Or, at least, loan it to us, huh? Can't you picture Irving Forbush screaming: "I'll be honked off with you guys if you don't Make Mine Marvel!"?

—Now that you've seen what some of our frantic fans have had to say about our new lineup, perhaps you'll forgive us for being even more mixed-up than usual! However, we do want to promise you this—we may score dazzling triumphs in some issues, or go down to dismal defeat in others, but you can be sure of one thing—we'll always be in there trying out new ideas, trying to keep a couple of jumps ahead of you, trying to be worthy of your interest, your support, and your much-valued loyalty! And, as always, we want you to know that the only thing you can expect from mighty Marvel, the acknowledged leader in its field, is—the unexpected! So, till next ish, when we bring you a whole mess of new developments and startling surprises, keep happy, keep healthy, keep in touch! Without you, we'd just be another Brand Echh!

NEXT:

ZONE